

To: Peter Silva/DC/USEPA/US@EPA[]
From: NRDC
Sent: Wed 1/6/2010 6:28:51 PM
Subject: Reject limestone mining permits that will harm the Everglades

Jan 6, 2010

Assistant Administrator Peter S. Silva
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Assistant Administrator Silva,

I urge the EPA to intervene to stop current plans to expand limestone mining activities in the Everglades, our country's largest subtropical wilderness.

The Army Corps of Engineers' proposals both to re-issue mining permits set aside last January by a federal court because of violations of

federal environmental laws and to approve expansion of the mining would irreversibly destroy critical wetlands and endangered species habitat, harm Everglades restoration, contaminate local drinking water supplies and cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. The Everglades wetlands ecosystem has already been devastated by a century of destructive human activity, and must be protected from further harmful practices.

The EPA has the legal authority and the responsibility to prevent the permanent harm that the proposed mining would cause to the Everglades and drinking water supplies. The EPA should only approve a five-year mining plan that includes buffers to protect the Everglades and the public wellfield (at a minimum, these buffers should include those in Alternative 7 and in Figure 5-5 of the Corps' Supplemental

Environmental Impact Statement and in Appendix A of the federal court's July 13, 2007 order). This would still allow years of mining while necessary studies are completed to see if any more mining can be done safely and without unacceptable environmental impacts.

Sincerely,

Mr. Harry J Tucci Jr

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